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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE   P- 7.5

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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October 20, 1966

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, DIA
                  Director, NSA
                  Director of Reconnaissance, CIA
                  Director of Special Projects, SAF
                  Director of Naval Intelligence
                  Director, NPIC
                  Chairman, COMOR
                  Commander, Global Weather Central

SUBJECT: Ad Hoc Group re Satellite Operations Center (SOC)

The on-going and programmed introduction in the NRP of
new and more capable photographic and SIGINT satellite systems,
coupled with the increasing scope and sophistication of
national intelligence needs, has made it patently clear that
the NRO Satellite Operations Center also must significantly
improve its capabilities--particularly, in the rapid processing
and analyzing of sizable amounts of data.

As you know, the principal functions of the SOC include
the establishment of satellite launch schedules, the selection
of orbits, and the selection of specific on-orbit payload
objectives (i.e., targeting) in response to USIB requirements.
In this NRP role, the SOC has and will continue to have varying
degrees of support requirements, both during and between
missions, with each of the above addressees.

Over the past several months, we have studied the SOC
functions, responsibilities, procedures, and performance in
considerable detail, and explored various alternative means
of improving its capabilities. However, before any final plans
can be made, we must first be assured that the necessary SOC
support interfaces are compatible with your current and future
capabilities and that these support interfaces will be con-
ducted effectively. It is in this particular regard that we
seek your advice and assistance with regard to the SOC. Addi-
tionally, since it is obvious that several functions now   25X1

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NRO review(s) completed.

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performed manually in the SOC must be automated, we desire to take advantage of your considerable experience in automatic data processing.

Early in November, I plan to convene an Ad Hoc Group under Colonel Henry C. Howard, Chief of the SOC, for the purpose of defining or confirming interfaces and mutual support responsibilities between the SOC and your organization, and request your appraisal on such matters as formats and scope of information flow applicable to your organization, equipment for the SOC activity, future planning of your organization which might impact on the SOC, etc. It is requested that you designate a representative to participate in the group who is [   ] 25X1 cleared for satellite projects and knowledgeable of the current support interfaces.

Colonel Howard will contact your representative later this month and establish a date and place for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Group. The initial session will be devoted mostly to discussing the results of our analyses to date and outlining the task desired of the group. Undoubtedly, several sessions will be required for a thorough appraisal of the subject; however, every effort will be made to minimize the time and effort required on the part of your representative.

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James T. Stewart
Major General, USAF
Director, NRO Staff

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